

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
receiving information of an event;
determining the level of importance of the event relative to a first person;
and

if the event has a level of importance greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and a level of importance that is below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then taking action in response to the event without contacting any person.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information

concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting any person.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the first person concerning circumstances in which the first person will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein referring to rules specified by the first person further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

11. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information of an event;
determine the level of importance of the event to a first person; and
if the event has a level of importance greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and a level of importance that is below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then taking action in response to the event without contacting any person.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises comparing the subject of the event to a list of subjects of interest to the first person.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises taking into account a limitation on a way of contacting at least one person arising from where said at least one person is currently located.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises taking into account whether or not an earlier attempt was made to contact at least one person.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning rules specified by the first person concerning

circumstances in which the first person will not permit action to be taken without at least one person being contacted.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein referring to rules specified by the first person further comprises referring to information concerning exceptions to those rules.

21. A method, comprising:
receiving information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determining the level of importance of the event to a first person; and
if the event has a level of importance greater or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and a level of importance below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then take action in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the timing of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

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24. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a calendar.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the location of activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged provided by a device carried by said at least one person supplying information concerning said at least one person's current whereabouts.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person.

27. A computer readable medium comprising instructions, which when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:

receive information concerning a previous attempt to contact at least one person concerning an event;

determine the level of importance of the event to a first person; and
if the event has a level of importance greater or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and a level of importance below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then take action in response to the event without making a subsequent attempt to contact any person.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises evaluating the effect of the passage of time since a previous attempt to contact at least one person was made on the level of importance of the event.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning activities in which at least one person is engaged or will be engaged.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein determining the level of importance of the event to the first person comprises referring to information concerning the first person's preferences to determine if the first person would prefer that action be taken on behalf of the first person to respond to the event without contacting at least one person.

31. An apparatus programmed by a first person with information concerning the first person's activities, and configured by a first person to:
receive information concerning an event,
determine the level of importance of the event to the first person, and
if the event has a level of importance greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and a level of importance below or equal to a second predetermined threshold, then take action in response to the event without making an attempt to contact at least one person.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 further programmed by the first person with the first and second thresholds.

33. The apparatus of claim 31 further programmed by the first person with rules indicating when action should always be taken without making an attempt to contact at least one person.

34. An apparatus carried by a first person, configured to communicate with a service provider receiving information concerning an event, allowing the service provider to provide the first person with information concerning the event if the level of importance of the event to the first person is greater than or equal to a first predetermined threshold, and allowing the first person to respond to the information received from the service provider concerning the event.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 comprising means to determine the current whereabouts of the first person and to relay information concerning the whereabouts of the first person to the service provider.

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